

## M E R C A T O R :

O R,

## Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, July 15. to Saturday, July 17. 1714.

*A little to be said to the Trade to Spain, that the World may not be amused about it.**The Treaty of Commerce with Spain made effectually to our Advantage.**The Spaniards did at first impose upon us in the Duties.**Upon the Queen's Demand, the King of Spain did us Justice, and caused all Things to be restored to the Satisfaction of our Merchants.**This was six Weeks before their Complaint.**Great Cause to believe they knew of it.**Knaves if they did; Fools if they did not.**Their Prevarication when they made it publick.**The Contradictions in acknowledging it.**Their Impudence in applying to the House after they knew it.*

**T**H E Mercator did not design to have meddled with any Discourses on the Spanish Trade, knowing an abler Hand had resolved to undertake the Work. But it is not reasonable to leave the World so long under Party-Amusements, which would be to answer these People's End other ways.

That the Treaty with Spain is made as much to our Advantage, as it was reasonable to expect, or as in the Nature of the Thing could possibly admit, is certainly true, and that it is very much to the Advantage of the English Commerce, is true.

That our Merchants and Merchandizes have great Advantages which they never enjoy'd before, is true.

Yet in the Execution of the Treaty, some Mistakes had happen'd, and the Spanish Farmers and Custom-house Men began to impose upon the English, in a manner not at all agreeable to the true intent and meaning of the Treaty.

Upon the Complaint made of this to the QUEEN, Her Majesty forthwith caused an effectual Representation thereof to be made to the King of Spain, who immediately redress'd the Grievance, and order'd Things to go on as they did before, till the new Book of Rates can be settled agreeable to the Treaty; and as this has been now done almost seven Weeks, it is strange that the Clamours of the Spanish Merchants should rise so high at the House of Lords.

But that the Deeds of Darknes may come to light, the Mercator thinks fit to put it upon a fair Search.

The end of the Complaint any Man with one Eye may see as well as Mr. Mi—ner and Sir William, and who they struck at. The Shortness of their Power gives no Testimony to the Shortness of their Intent. But what will the World say to the Villany of it, when they shall hear, as the Mercator believes may be prov'd, That these Merchants-Complainers at the same time that they were Patriots in their Appearance, and spoke great Things of their Zeal for Trade, and for the Manufactures of the Nation, which they said the Spaniards were ruining, and that in Combination with France, Spain was now resolv'd to destroy our Market, and that the Trade to Spain was lost. The Mercator says, he fears it will be prov'd, these Men knew, even these Complainers at that time, that the QUEEN had demanded, and the Spaniards had restor'd the Trade to its old Channel.

That it had been done above six Weeks before their Complaint, is true; and as soon as ever they had made the Complaint, and found they could not give the Blow which they aim'd at; they confess'd it was done, (viz.) That the Spaniards had redress'd the Grievance, and that they had nothing to complain of.

Now either they knew it at the time of their Complaint, or they did not know it; if they did, they were not Knaves only, but Murtherers and Traytors, and such it is to be fear'd





28  
fear'd they will be prov'd; if they did not know it, they were Fools as to Spanish Merchandizing, that should have such eminent Things on their Hands, and no Letters from thence on so great an Emergency.

It is certain, and will be proved, that there were Letters in Town of it, and somewhere else too, even at that time, which would have Confronted and Confounded them, if their Malice could have gone far enough to have made it necessary to produce them; but there was no need, and they were not worth the trouble of being made ashamed.

Such is the Rage at this time against the publick Management, that Men stick at nothing, and can do the foulest things to push their Party-Resentment; The Plot transacting upon this Head had divers Views, and being tim'd to the very juncture, when the same Men in the South-Sea Company were pushing another thing equally Knavish and Malicious, was a kind of a *Plot of Coherences*, like the Trial of the Lord *Russel*, and the Death of the Earl of *Essex*, where it was said, one was acted to make the other feasible.

Was ever such a horrid Affront offered to the Sovereign judicature of the Nation, the House of Lords, to alarm them with a Complaint of a thing which, at the same time, they knew was redressed? It is happy for these People that the House of Lords is up, or they would certainly have found means to let them know what it was to use the Peers of Great-Britain in such a manner.

Well! as soon as the Blow was miss'd, what followed? Why truly, then the Gentlemen own'd, that the Spaniards had redressed the Matter Complained of, and all things were suffered to go as before, and a publication was put in the Daily Courant, July 14. or thereabout, to acknowledge it; but mark the Honesty and Justice of the People.

The acknowledgment they could not well avoid, because they could not but expect it would come from other Hands, and that if was not told their own way, with some malicious addition, the Truth, fairly represented, would make People abhor them; for this Reason they thought convenient to daub it over with this Remark.

1. That it must be own'd, it was very kind in the Spaniards to do so.

2. But least that Compliment upon the Spaniards should tast of too much Civility, which it must be own'd is none of their *Ordinary*, they take it off, by adding, that it was their own Interest produced that Kindness, because that it was found, adding on high Duties would lessen the Trade, and thereby sink the Revenue.

Let every impartial Reader but mark the abhorred Malice of these Men, and see how it

guides them to all manner of Enormity, and then let them but observe how the Spleen hurries them on to that Shame, which is their due, and how they contradict themselves.

1. Here is eminent and notorious Malice, in pretending this restoring things in Spain to be Kindness in the Spaniard, whereas it was really upon Her Majesty's demand for the satisfaction of Her Subjects, and benefit of their Trade.

2. Here is eminent and indeed odious Contradiction of themselves, and Flattery of the Spaniards: *Very kind!* Whereas in their Complaint, the high Demands which they made upon us before, was maliciously represented to be a Confederacy with the French to ruine the English Commerce. Horrid and impudent Treatment! that Men are not ashamed to flatter one (the Spaniards) falsely accuse another (the French) disown the Justice of another (the Queen) fly in the face of, and Contradict themselves; and all this to preserve the misrepresentation of Fact, which was necessary to carry on the Malignancy of a Party.

What dreadful Times are we come to, when the warmth of Men in their Party-Causes can allow them to run such lengths as these, that all the Honour and Justice which is due from Man to Man, is sacrificed to push on a Party! When Men can Complain of what they know is remedied, and are not ashamed to bring plain Contradictions upon the Stage in defence of their Proceedings! to Day alledge, the Spaniards are in Confederacy with the French to ruine our Trade; to Morrow, that they have abated their new Demands in Kindness to the English; in the very next Words tell us, that this Kindness is nothing but their own Interest, and that proves a thing they have never allowed before, (viz.) That the Encrease of our Exports to Spain is the Encrease of the Spanish Revenue, and so, by Consequence, that the French cannot supply that Trade.

Help British Merchant! Help ye Clan of Scribblers against the English Commerce! Here are the whole Body of the Spanish Merchants fallen upon us at once, contradicting all that has been said of the Encroachments of the French upon us in the Spanish Trade! Here is their Penman of the *Courant* has publish'd by their Authority, that the Spaniards are very kind to the English Trade, and at last an Acknowledgement in Print, that it is the Interest of the Spaniards to encourage and be kind to the English Traders, among other Reasons, for the Encrease of their Revenue of Customs, and that could not be, if the French were able to supply them with Goods.

If the *Mercator* has not the last Blow with them at parting, let the World judge; let them Rail and Scold this off, if they can.

